

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-24, 26-35, and 37-42 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 11-13, 15-17, 21, 26-30, 33, 37, and 39 are currently amended. Claims 10, 25, and 36 have been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 21 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Abraham et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,267,471). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that Claims 21 and 33 have been amended as stated in more detail below to incorporate features that the Examiner has indicated to be allowable subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-9, 18-20, 22-24, 31, 32, 34, 35, 41 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abraham et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,267,471) in view of Kaule (U.S. Pat. No. 4,046,477). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that Claims 1, 21, and 33, upon which the remaining rejected claims depend upon, have been amended as stated in more detail below to incorporate features that the Examiner has indicated to be allowable subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 10-17, 25-30 and 36-40 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1, 21, and 33 to include allowable features originally set forth in the objected to claims.

Specifically, independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features originally set forth in objected to Claim 10. Similarly, independent Claim 21 has been amended to essentially include the allowable features originally set forth in objected to Claim 25, with minor grammatical revisions. Lastly, independent Claim 33 has been amended to essentially include the allowable features originally set forth in objected to Claim 36, with minor grammatical revisions. Claims 11-13, 15-17, 26-30, 37, and 39 have been amended to correct their respective dependencies upon cancellation of claims 10, 25, and 36. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and

favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 10, 2006

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